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IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF INTERMOUNTAIN'S )  
GAS COMPANY'S 2002 INTEGRATED )  
RESOURCE PLAN )

CASE NO. INT-G-02-2

COMMENTS OF THE  
NORTHWEST INDUSTRIAL  
GAS USERS

**COMES NOW** the Northwest Industrial Gas Users ("NWIGU"),<sup>1</sup> by and through its Attorneys of Record, Edward A. Finklea and Chad M. Stokes, and in response to the Notice of Filing, Notice of Modified Procedure and Notice of Comment Deadline issued in Order No. 29039 on May 29, 2002, submit the following comments.

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<sup>1</sup> NWIGU is a nonprofit association comprised of thirty-two end users of natural gas with major facilities in the states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. NWIGU members encompass diverse industrial interests, including food processing, pulp and paper, wood products, electric generation, aluminum, steel, chemicals, electronics, and aerospace. The association provides an informational service to its members and participates in various regulatory matters that affect member interests. NWIGU member companies purchase transportation services from Williams Gas Pipeline – West, also known as Northwest Pipeline Corporation ("NPC") and PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation and purchase sales and transportation services from local distribution companies, such as Intermountain.

## INTRODUCTION

On April 19, 2002, Intermountain Gas Company (“Intermountain” or the “Company”) submitted its 2002 Integrated Resource Plan with the Commission. The Commission has elected to process this filing under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201-204 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure. The Integrated Resource Plan is meant to describe the currently anticipated conditions over the five-year planning horizon, the anticipated resource selections and the process for making those resource decisions for Intermountain’s approximately 200,000 customers in southern Idaho.

The following persons will represent the NWIGU in this proceeding, and should be included on the official service list:

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## NWIGU COMMENTS

Intermountain should be commended for its effort directed at enhancing its Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (“SCADA”) system. Intermountain is currently investigating technology enhancements that would allow industrial customers access to “real-time” natural gas usage data in a secure manner via the Internet. Intermountain recognizes that industrial customers’ processes can be energy intensive and that access to real-time information enhances

the ability of industrial customers to realize energy efficiency gains. The ability of industrial customers to have real-time access to natural gas usage information is a positive step and allows customers to develop new methods or technologies, leading to more efficient use of natural gas. Real-time information can also enhance the price signals consumers receive if purchasing gas on the open market. NWIGU urges the Commission to approve Intermountain's plan, and in particular, the efficiency opportunities provided by real-time industrial usage information.

DATED this 30th day of July, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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